AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. If any claims are designated "cancelled," please cancel such claims without prejudice.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A hydrogel composition comprising a hydrophilic polymer dissolved in a composition of silver in water having a total concentration of silver of between about 5 and 40 parts per million, said silver in the form of colloidal silver particles having an interior of elemental silver and a surface coating of silver oxide, wherein the composition manifests antimicrobial properties.

2. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 35, wherein at least 75% of the colloidal particles have diameters between 0.005 micrometers and 0. 015 micrometers.

3. (original) The composition according to claim 2, wherein at least 90% of the colloidal particles have diameters between 0.005 micrometers and 0.015 micrometers.

4. (original) The composition according to claim 3, wherein at least 95% of the colloidal particles have diameters between 0.005 micrometers and 0.015 micrometers.

5. (canceled)

6. (original) The composition according to claim 1 further comprising hydrogen peroxide.

7. (original) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the hydrogen peroxide concentration is between about 1 % wght/v and about 3.0% wght/v.

8. (original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition manifests antimicrobial properties against microbes selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus anthracis, Bacillus subtilis, Candida albicans, Mycobacteria bovis, Mycobacteria tuberculosis, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Salmonella choleraesius, Staphylococcus aureus, Trichomonas vaginalis*, and *Yersinia pestis*.

9. (original) The composition according to claim 8, wherein *Staphylococcus aureus* is a methicillin-resistant strain.

10. (original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition manifests antimicrobial properties against microbes associated with diseases selected from the group consisting of malaria, fungal infections of the skin, bacterial infections of the skin, vaginal infections, urinary tract infections, tonsillitis, pelvic inflammatory disease, pharyngitis, gonorrhea, conjunctivitis, otitis, respiratory tract infections, and nasal infections.

11. –17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of gelatin, carbohydrate polymers and acrylic acid copolymers.

19. (original) The composition according to claim 18, wherein the carbohydrate polymer is selected from the group consisting of cellulose derivatives, alginate, carrageenan, and plant gums.

20. (original) The composition according to claim 19, wherein the plant gums are selected from the group consisting of xanthan gum, locust bean gum, gum traganth, guar gum, and gum arabic.

21. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising additives to enhance physical characteristics of the hydrogel and/or enhance wound healing.

22. (original) The composition according to claim 21, wherein the additives are selected from the group consisting of vitamins, amino acids, growth factors, maltodextrin, aloe vera and anesthetics.

23. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising additional antimicrobial agents.

24. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 23, wherein the additional antimicrobial agents are selected from the group consisting of organic acids, alcohols, organic disinfectants, chlorinated phenolics, chlorhexidine, biguanides, surfactants, aldehydes, halogen disinfectants and oxygenating disinfectants.

25. – 34. (canceled)

35. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein a majority of the colloidal silver particles have a maximum diameter less than 0. 015 micrometers and wherein a majority of the colloidal silver particles have a minimum diameter greater than 0.005 micrometers.